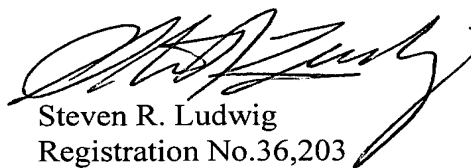


Summary

It is respectfully believed that this application is now in condition for examination. Early notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


Steven R. Ludwig
Registration No. 36,203

Date: 11/24/99

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

P:\USERS\RMCSAAC\FILES\0609\464\4640001\pto\11-19-99.prel.amnd
SKGF Rev.6/3/98 mac

09448867-112499